

I am a concerned parent of a child with special needs. I am also an educator. Please do not take away funding to valuable private institutions/schools that help with students with challenging behaviors and can offer services that address the students needs. Often, these students are integrated back into public schools or gain skills that enable them to live productive lives after they graduate. If you cut funding now for these types of interventions, it will cost more to support adults who have not had the intensive support and education that they need earlier in their lives. We do not want to return to a time when challenging students or students with special needs that cannot be addressed in the general educational setting (even those designed for special needs) are warehoused or are overseen without learning valuable productive skills to integrate them more fully into our communities, families and workforce.

I do not support **HB 5447** (An Act Implementing the recommendations of the auditors of public accounts concerning private providers of special education). It is not good for our students or our state.

Sincerely yours,
Diana Paulin
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